



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

Testimony in SUPPORT for House Bill 6125
HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
House State Government and Elections Committee
April 3, 2025

Shanley Craven and honorable members of the House State Government and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) with **support for House Bill 6125**. Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) provided sexual and reproductive health care to nearly 8,000 Rhode Island patients last year. Planned Parenthood believes all people should have access to quality, affordable, and compassionate health care as a basic human right — regardless of who you are, where you live, your income, if you have health insurance or your immigration status.

We are at a critical moment in our country. Our basic health care and rights are on the line. We have seen an unrelenting and escalating political attack against the LGBTQIA+ community especially in recent years post *Dobbs*. Just as we are seeing states ban abortion care, state bans on transgender health care passed at an alarming rate in 2024, and now 25 states ban access to gender-affirming care.¹ That's why it was so critical that Rhode Island took swift action and passed the Healthcare Provider Shield Act last session to protect health care providers delivering essential care to patients in Rhode Island. In 2024, state lawmakers in 43 states introduced more than 650 bills to restrict trans rights — the fifth consecutive record-breaking year² for the total number of anti-trans bills considered in the U.S.

LGBTQ+ people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. At Planned Parenthood, we believe every person should have the freedom to live as their authentic self and access the sexual and reproductive health care they need. We stand firmly against the executive orders President Trump has signed targeting the rights of transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming people. We believe people achieve reproductive freedom when they have full autonomy over their bodies and lives — this not only includes access to health care, but it is the ability to live in communities that are not over-policed, the ability to live without fear of having families torn apart, and to live without fear of harm from discriminatory policies.

Planned Parenthood will continue to fight for policies that protect the rights of all people to ensure our patients and communities have what they need to live healthy and self-determined lives. Rhode Island's elected leaders can reaffirm their commitment to ensuring that all Rhode Islanders have equal rights and protections, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression through support for H 6125. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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¹ Movement Advancement Project, Equality Maps: Bans on Best Practice Medical Care for Transgender Youth, https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/healthcare_youth_medical_care_bans

² <https://translegislation.com/>